

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. The Office Action dated June 28, 2004, regarding this Application has been carefully considered. The Examiner determined that Claims 4-13 are in condition for the allowance. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner. Claim 3 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended in this Response. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks for those Claims deemed not in condition for allowance.

An interview was held with the Examiner, Mr. David Ton, on August 20, 2004, to discuss the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and proposed amendments to Claim 1. Applicants' representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by U.S. Patent No. 4,811,345 by Johnson ("Johnson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,604,888 by Kiana-Shabestari et al. ("Kiana"). Insofar as it may be applied against the Claim, this rejection is overcome.

Regarding Claim 1, Johnson was cited as assertedly fully disclosing an apparatus for testing one or more processors, and controlling the input to the one or more processors. Kiana was cited as assertedly fully disclosing a reconfigurable interface, including a motherboard means connected to a host computer means through an interface means. The Examiner further stated that it would have been obvious to combine teaches of Johnson and Kiana in order to provide a reconfigurable interface for testing a microprocessor.

Rejected independent Claim 1 as now amended more particularly recites one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, “*wherein the test motherboard means further comprises an Arbiter and Traffic Generator means for controlling a motherboard bus on the test motherboard means.*” (Emphasis added.) Support for this Amendment can be found, among other places, on page 4, line 28 to page 5, line 24 of the original Application.

Johnson is directed to a microprocessor test interface having a plurality of CPU control pins. Kiana is directed to the use of daughterboards connecting to a motherboard for use with field programmable gate arrays. However, Johnson in view of Kiani does not disclose, teach or suggest “wherein the test motherboard means further comprises an Arbiter and Traffic Generator means for controlling a motherboard bus on the test motherboard means.” An advantage that amended Claim 1 innovatively provides is that it allows for flexibility in controlling a bus, such as a motherboard bus, and generating interrupts/traffic based upon an instruction, memory mapped values, an address, and/or the like. Amended Claim 1 is not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Johnson or Kiana, either singularly or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest the unique combination now recited in amended Claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claim 1 is clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited references in a patentable sense, and is therefore allowable over these references and the remaining references of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Johnson in view of Kiani be withdrawn and that Claim 1 be allowed.

Claim 3 depends on and further limits Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, this Claim should also be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of the dependent Claim 3 also be withdrawn.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by Johnson in view of Kiana in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,263,139 to Testa et al. ("Testa"). Insofar as it may be applied against the Claim, this rejection is overcome.

Claim 2 depends on and further limits Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, this Claim should be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of the dependent Claim 2 also be withdrawn.

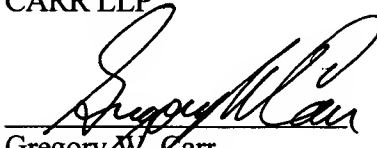
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-13.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP

  
Gregory W. Carr  
Reg. No. 31,093

Dated: 9/27/04  
CARR LLP  
670 Founders Square  
900 Jackson Street  
Dallas, Texas 75202  
Telephone: (214) 760-3030  
Fax: (214) 760-3003